

Missing the bull's eye

Klang slowly losing stranglehold on archery

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KLANG district, a powerhouse in producing young talented archers, is facing a stumbling block in the development of the sport.

This is because there are only a few primary schools that run programmes for archery.

According to Selangor Schools Sports Council (MSSS) archery technical chairman G. Thyagarajan, only three schools—SRJK(Tamil)Simpang Lima, SK Methodist (Girls) Klang and SK Sungai Kapar Indah — have archery programmes for their pupils.

Three other schools — SK Klang Jaya and SK Bukit Tinggi and SK Batu Unjur — scrapped the archery programme two years ago as purchasing the equipment was too costly.

"I fear that this will affect the overall domination of archery in Klang district and the sport will die off slowly. I hope that these schools revive the archery programme.

"Selangor was fifth overall in archery during the MSSM. This was because the archers in the Under-12 age group did not deliver any gold medal. This is very disappointing," said Thyagarajan, who coaches SMK Raja Mahadi archery club and the school team three times a week.

He said the students must start picking up archery while in primary school where the fundamental and basic skills were taught.

"But when we do not have any feeder schools or pupils from the primary schools coming here with basic skills, we have to teach them from scratch and it will take years before they can become accomplished archers.

"I hope other primary schools in Klang district start an archery programme to ensure that Klang con-



Experienced archer: Mohd Firdaus (right) showing some tips to the students in SMK Raja Mahadi.

tinues dominating this sport," he said.

Thyagarajan also pointed out that accomplished and national archer Mohd Firdaus Isa, who was a silver medallist at the Indonesian SEA Games in 2011, has not secured a job despite having a degree in Physical Education from Universiti Putra Malaysia.

Firdaus, who aspires to coach archery in a sport school, had gone for an interview with the Education Department, but failed to land a job.

"My dream is to become a teacher and coach in a sports school where I can pass on my knowledge to junior archers," said Firdaus, who is currently an assistant coach for the Selangor Sukma squad.



Focus: Students taking aim at the target at SMK Raja Mahadi in Klang school field during a training session.

I see you: A student focusing on the target at SMK Raja Mahadi school field.